

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment Resources

Quarterly Bulletin: April – June 2014

This quarterly bulletin compiles Smarter Balanced resources that were shared via the Agency's [Weekly Field Memo](#). The bulletins are stored on the Agency's [Smarter Balanced web page](#).

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NEWS & UPDATES

Vermont Schools Selected for Field-Testing of New State Assessment

Audience: All

27 Vermont schools selected to participate in field testing the Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC), a new computer-based educational testing program that will replace the state's current NECAP tests for Math and ELA in the spring of 2015. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

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New England Assessment Consortium Formed by VT, NH and CT

Audience: All

Following the example set by the NECAP program, Vermont has joined with Connecticut and New Hampshire to form the New England Assessment Consortium. Last week the three states posted a joint RFP seeking a contractor to manage implementation of the new Smarter Balanced assessments for the consortium. The states are anticipating significant cost savings based on the economy of scale that will result from the multi-state partnership.

Contact: Michael Hock, Director of Educational Assessment, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced Field Test Off to a Good Start

Audience: General

Field-testing of the new Smarter Balanced Assessment began on March 24, and by April 4, Vermont students had started 6,438 tests and completed 5,916 (92%). The [27 participating VT schools](#) are helping to ensure that the test not only provides rigorous and common core aligned test questions but works for a wide range of students and technologies. [Click here](#) to read observations from school visits.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802 479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Frank Gerdeman, ISL -Secondary & Adult Assistant Director, 802-479-1381 or frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: Student Correspondence to Vermont Secretary of Education

Audience: All

A Highgate Elementary School 4th grade student recently wrote Secretary Holcombe to express concerns about standardized testing. [Click here](#) to read the student's letter and the Secretary's response.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Frank Gerdeman, ISL-Secondary & Adult Assistant Director, 802-479-1381 or frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us

CONFERENCES

Common Core Institutes for English Language Arts & Mathematics: Assessment Tasks that Engage Learners and Elicit Student Thinking

Audience: Teacher Teams: English Language Arts Grades 3-12 and Mathematics Grades K-12

The instructional shifts of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) require teachers to use classroom assessments that are significantly different from past assessments. For instance, the Item Bank Assessments for reading and mathematics are aligned to our grade expectations and will not provide critical information about student progress towards CCSS. These day-long institutes with electronic follow-up sessions are designed to meet the need for assessment tasks--aligned to CCSS and Smarter Balanced design models--that engage learners and elicit students' current level of thinking. Smarter Balanced assessment items will be used to demonstrate the rigorous expectations of the standards. For additional information and to register, please go to <http://www.vermontpln.org/>.

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Save the Date: Assessment Options for Students with Special Assessment Needs

Audience: Classroom Teachers, Special Educators, Professionals Who Serve Students with Special Assessment Needs

On May 29, 2014, the AOE will be hosting a conference on [Assessment Options for Students with Special Assessment Needs](#), which will provide an intro to Vermont's two new assessments: **Smarter Balanced** (SBAC) and **Dynamic Learning Maps** (DLM). Strategies and information needed to complete assessment participation components of IEPs, 504 Plans or EST Plans will be emphasized.

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RESOURCES

Smarter Balanced: Michael Hock Presents at Essex Town School Board Meeting

Audience: All

State Assessment Director, Michael Hock, provided an overview of Vermont's new statewide testing program at the Essex Town School Board meeting. The new [SMARTER Balanced](#) assessments are currently being field tested in 27 Vermont schools, including Essex Town. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Frank Gerdeman, ISL -Secondary & Adult Assistant Director, 802-479-1381 or frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Performance Task Item Specifications Posted

Audience: All

With the addition of ELA/literacy and mathematics performance task item specifications, all Smarter Balanced item and task specifications have been posted to the public website and are accessible at www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Mary Ann Minardo, Teacher Outreach Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us; Frank Gerdeman, ISL -Secondary & Adult Assistant Director, 802-479-1381 or frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Smarter Balanced: FAQ

Audience: All

What if my school or district does not have the infrastructure to support computer adaptive testing? [Click here](#) to read the answer to this week's question here. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16OWy0j>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced: FAQ

Audience: All

What do the Smarter Balanced assessments cover? [Click here](#) to read the answer. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Smarter Balanced assessment, and Vermont's Field Test.

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Smarter Balanced: FAQ

Audience: All

How are the assessments being tested before implementation in the 2014-15 school year? [Click here](#) to read the answer. Read past FAQs: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac/frequently-asked-questions>.

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Smarter Balanced Assessment: FAQ

Audience: All

What are the three components in Smarter Balanced? [Click here](#) to read the answer. Read past FAQs here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac/frequently-asked-questions>.

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